GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1721
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004
AUGMENTATION OF WATER RESOURCES
Choudhary Shri Nikhil Kumar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that in various parts of the country particularly in Delhi the water resources are gradually drying up; and

(b) if so, the detailed action-plan formulated by the Government to augment water resources?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) The long term trend of pre-monsoon water levels during 1994-2003 shows significant decline in ground water level in 41 districts in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. In Delhi, the districts of New Delhi, South West Delhi, South Delhi and North East Delhi show significant decline in ground water levels.

(b) A Central Sector Scheme on "Study of Recharge to Ground Water" was launched during the Ninth Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs.25.00 crore. The Scheme has also been continued for the first 2 years of the Tenth Five Year Plan at a revised cost of Rs.35.81 crore. During Tenth Five Year Plan, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting" at an estimated cost of Rs.175 crore has been proposed by the Ministry of Water Resources to encourage rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water. The State Government particularly National Capital Territory of Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Rajasthan and Tamuil Nadu have also taken appropriate measures for roof-top rainwater harvesting and recharging ground water.

Various measures have also been taken by National Capital Territory of Delhi for recharging ground water. The beds of Najafgarh drain and Mundella drain have been lowered to increase the water retention capacity of these drains and to help the ground water recharge. Rain water is being impounded in these drains and the stored water is being used by the cultivators for irrigation throughout the non-monsoon period. 23 check dams in Mehrauli area and Artificial recharge trenches in Mungesh Pur drain have been constructed to trap the rain water for ground water recharge. About 70 village ponds have been deepened to increase their capacity for holding rain water and for promoting ground water recharge. An artificial water body has been created in the abandoned outfall portion of Bawana Escape to impound flood water from river Yamuna for the purpose of ground water recharge. The flood water of river Yamuna is also being diverted and stored in Bhalsawa Lake for helping in ground water recharge.